

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 13726

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UR, US, CCD
SUBJECT: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS, ROUND
EIGHT: FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

CW MESSAGE NO. 15

1. SUMMARY. FOURTH PLENARY MEETING WAS HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1978. SOVIET DEL HEAD (AMBASSADOR V. I. LIKHATCHEV) MADE BRIEF STATEMENT GIVING A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND RESPONDING TO THE U.S. STATEMENT MADE AT PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING ON DECLARATIONS AND VERIFICATION. HE REITERATED UNACCEPTABILITY TO SOVIETS OF U.S. PROPOSALS ON DECLARATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND ON CENTRALIZING PRODUCTION OF SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR PROTECTIVE MILITARY PURPOSES. LIKHATCHEV EMPHASIZED AGAIN THAT THE CONCEPT OF REQUIRED INTERNATIONAL ON-SITE VERIFICATION IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE SOVIET UNION. US DEL HEAD (AMBASSADOR FISHER) EXPRESSED
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DISAPPOINTMENT ABOUT SOVIET STATEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. FOURTH PLENARY MEETING OF ROUND EIGHT WAS HELD AT SOVIET REQUEST ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1978. SOVIET DEL HEAD (AMBASSADOR V. I. LIKHATCHEV) MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT GIVING A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND RESPONDING TO U.S. STATEMENT ON DECLARATIONS AND VERIFI-

CATION AT PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING. SOVIET STATEMENT IS SUMMARIZED IN PARAS 3-6 BELOW.

3. LIKHATCHEV BEGAN BY NOTING THAT WHILE THE TWO SIDES HAD BEEN NEGOTIATING FOR TWO YEARS AND AGREEMENT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN REACHED ON THE OVERALL OUTLINES WHICH SHOULD DETERMINE THE SCOPE OF THE PROHIBITION, THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES STILL DIVERGED SIGNIFICANTLY ON A WHOLE SERIES OF COMPLEX ISSUES, PARTICULARLY ON QUESTIONS OF VERIFICATION AND DECLARATIONS CONNECTED WITH IT. HE CLAIMED THAT IN THE COURSE OF THIS ROUND THE SOVIET SIDE HAS MADE CERTAIN STEPS TO MEET THE US POSITION, BUT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUBSTANTIAL SIGNS OF US WILLINGNESS TO MOVE TOWARDS THE SOVIET POSITION.

4. LIKHATCHEV EMPHASIZED THAT IT WOULD BE ILLOGICAL FOR THE USSR TO REJECT THE CONCEPT OF A BROAD AND MANDATORY INTERNATIONAL CONTROL AS THE MAJOR FORM OF VERIFICATION AND AT THE SAME TIME AGREE TO DECLARATION OF LOCATIONS OF FACILITIES. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER DECLARING THE LOCATIONS OF FACILITIES WOULD HELP ENSURE RELIABLE VERIFICATION EVEN UNDER THE U.S. APPROACH. HE STATED THAT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO DECLARE AGGREGATE CAPACITY WOULD BE "A SERIOUS MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE, WHICH WOULD BE CONDUCIVE TO CREATING A MORE FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR ATTAINING THE GOALS OF THE CONVENTION."
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5. LIKHATCHEV REITERATED THE SOVIET VIEW THAT CENTRALIZING PRODUCTION OF SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR PROTECTIVE MILITARY PURPOSES IN ONE PLACE, AS PROPOSED BY U.S., IS ECONOMICALLY AND TECHNOLOGICALLY UNSOUND UNDER SOVIET CONDITIONS. HE SAID THAT THIS U.S. PROPOSAL STEMS FROM THE U.S. CONCEPTION OF INTERNATIONAL VERIFICATION, WHICH IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE USSR, BEING "UNJUSTIFIED AND EVEN DANGEROUS."

6. IN CONCLUDING, LIKHATCHEV STATED THAT "THE SOVIET DELEGATION ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL TREAT WITH UNDERSTANDING THE CONSIDERATIONS EXPRESSED BY US AND WILL ASSIST IN FINDING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS TO THESE QUESTIONS."

7. IN BRIEF IMMEDIATE RESPONSE, US DEL HEAD (AMBASSADOR FISHER) COMMENTED THAT SOVIET STATEMENT HAD NOT DECREASED THE U.S. SIDE'S FEELINGS OF DISAPPOINTMENT AND CONCERN ABOUT THE SOVIET POSITION.

8. NEXT (AND FINAL) PLENARY MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14. THE NEXT (AND FINAL) DRAFTING
GROUP MEETING WAS SET FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12. VANDEN
HEUVEL

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